CEMIRT Powers Critical Missions Worldwide

Mr. Vincent Consentino
CEMIRT/OL-A

In today's operational environments, electrical power is a mandatory requirement. During disaster relief and humanitarian efforts, connectivity to the primary utility grid may be severed, requiring the use of emergency power systems. In fact, establishing temporary power can be a top priority for first responders. Temporary power may also be necessary when an existing utility service connection or existing back-up generator is being serviced. Temporary connection of a back-up generator permits continued mission operations without any significant interruption.

Experts from CEMIRT, Travis AFB, Calif., install a CEMIRT Emergency Power System, or CEPS, at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. (U.S. Air Force photo)

One mission of HQ AFCESA's Field Support Division, Civil Engineering Maintenance, Inspection, and Repair Team (CEMIRT), is to maintain an extensive inventory of generators, or CEMIRT Emergency Power Systems (CEPS). For specific temporary prime and back-up power requirements, CEMIRT maintains an inventory of over 13MW of electrical generators. This includes 20 generators ranging from 150kW through 1.5MW. Both high-voltage (4,160V) and low-voltage (480V) generators are available to support primary distribution points (substations) and secondary distribution systems (building service entrances), respectively.

There have been some high profile projects where CEMIRT provided generators to support humanitarian and mission critical power requirements. After Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, resulting in $81B in total damages, CEMIRT responded with personnel and assets to provide over 3.5MW of generators to quickly restore power to critical facilities at Kessler AFB, Miss. , and the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. More recently, CEMIRT CEPS supported a failed substation at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., and although they were not required, CEMIRT assets were poised for deployment to Haiti to support relief efforts.

The request for loan of CEPS is handled through CEMIRT's primary location at Tyndall AFB, Fla., or CEMIRT's Operating Location Alpha, Travis AFB, Calif. A site assessment may be performed to review access, generator placement, and connection points to the facility or electrical substation. CEMIRT will also draft a memorandum of agreement addressing roles and responsibilities, points of contact, technical support, maintenance requirements and potential reimbursement costs once the unit is returned to CEMIRT. The customer also agrees to pay for shipping, miscellaneous materials, and TDY costs for installation personnel.

Additional information on CEPS type and availability can be reviewed on AFCESA's Field Support Division's Community of Practice (https://www.my.af.mil/afknprod/community/views/home.aspx?Filter=OO-MS-CE-11). Requests should be coordinated, either through the requester's chief of ops, unit commander, or MAJCOM representative.

CEMIRT continues to provide unique services and equipment which are both cost-effective and timely to meet known and unplanned requirements. "We continue to evaluate our CEPS fleet to ensure assets are mission ready at a moment's notice," said Mr. Robert Gingell, Chief of AFCESA's Field Support Division. "We also strive to get the word out to the Air Force CE community to ensure they are aware of this capability at their disposal."

Need backup power? Just give us a call.

Mr. Consentino is the Regional Manager of CEMIRT at Travis AFB, Calif.